

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	East Germany	REPORT NO.	[REDACTED]
SUBJECT	653rd Aviation Maintenance Base, Jueterbog-Damm	DATE DISTR.	1 May 1953
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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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1. The 653rd Aviation Maintenance Base (See Encl. A) was located approximately 1.5 kilometer south of Jueterbog-Damm (5156N-1305E). It was adjacent to and east of the Jueterbog-Rohrbeck road and at the junction of the roads which led from Jueterbog-Damm to Dennewitz (5157N-1301E), Rohrbeck (5157N-1308E) and Bochow (5156N-1305E). The area of the base was approximately 1 km. wide at the northern end, 1 1/2 km. wide at the southern end and 2 km. long. Located within this area were: two mechanized artillery regiments (unidentified) which were subordinate to the mechanized artillery division (unidentified) which had approximately nine U-2 type aircraft; and the 653rd Aviation Maintenance unit. (As far as I know the designation of the maintenance unit at Jueterbog-Damm was always the 653rd Aviation Maintenance Base. This dated back to its inception in the Fall of 1945. At that time, the 653rd Aviation Maintenance Base was involved only in the repair of vehicles, trucks, and automobiles. Later on (date unknown) it turned to the repair of aircraft instruments and navigational and radio equipment.)

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STATE	#X	ARMY	#X	NAVY	#X	AIR	#X	FBI		AEC			
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(Note: Washington Distribution Indicated By "X"; Field Distribution By "#")

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2. This maintenance base was primarily involved in the repair of all aircraft instruments (for both jet and conventional type aircraft), aircraft navigational equipment, aircraft and ground radio equipment, and listening devices. (I have heard that the PARM (Podvizhnoye Aviatsionoye Remontnoye Masterskiye) system was still being used in repairing aircraft in the Soviet Zone of Germany.) I am not certain, but I assume that the source of supply was the USSR and Soviet Zone factories. Since no aircraft but the U-2's mentioned above ever used the field, I assume that the equipment was brought in for repair by truck. I can not state definitely whether this maintenance base was considered to be a major or a minor base; but I assumed it to be a major instrument repair installation, since it had been in existence since the Fall of 1945. No runways, taxiways, or hardstands of any kind were either planned or under construction at Jueterbog-Damm. There were no revetments there.

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3. On frequent occasions while at Jueterbog-Damm [redacted] flights of twin jet aircraft, alone and in formations of three. [redacted]

[redacted] as the IL-28 twin jet. Wing tips of the aircraft I saw had oval objects attached.

4. [redacted] the object I observed at Point #21 of my memory sketch /See Enclosure A/ was a radar antenna, of which I have drawn also a memory sketch /Enclosure B/. The mast was constructed of steel and appeared to be a portable unit; it was about 14 m high and held stationary by eight guy wires. Atop the mast were four paddle-like screens which extended approximately 1 1/2 m. from the center of the mast. These screens were rectangular, approximately 1 1/2 m. long, 80 cm. - 1 m. wide, and interconnected with five or six strands of wire around the outer edges. They were constantly turning. Power lines led from the antenna to an enclosed van adjacent to the mast.

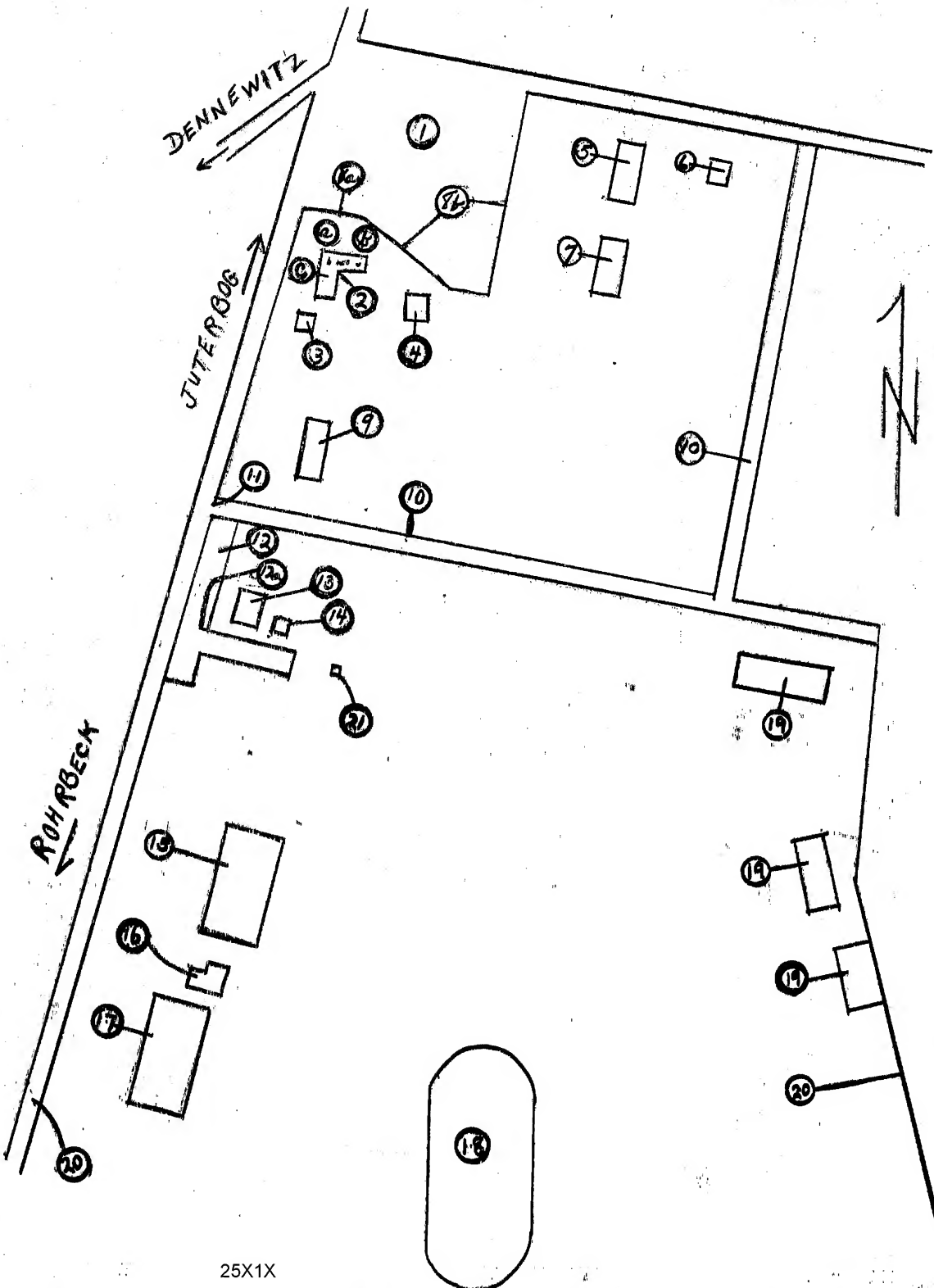
Enclosure A: Memory Sketch of the 653rd Aviation Maintenance Base
 B: Memory Sketch of Radar Antenna

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Annex A



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Memory Sketch of the 653rd Aviation Maintenance Base, Jueterbog-Damm

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Legend

Annex A (con't)

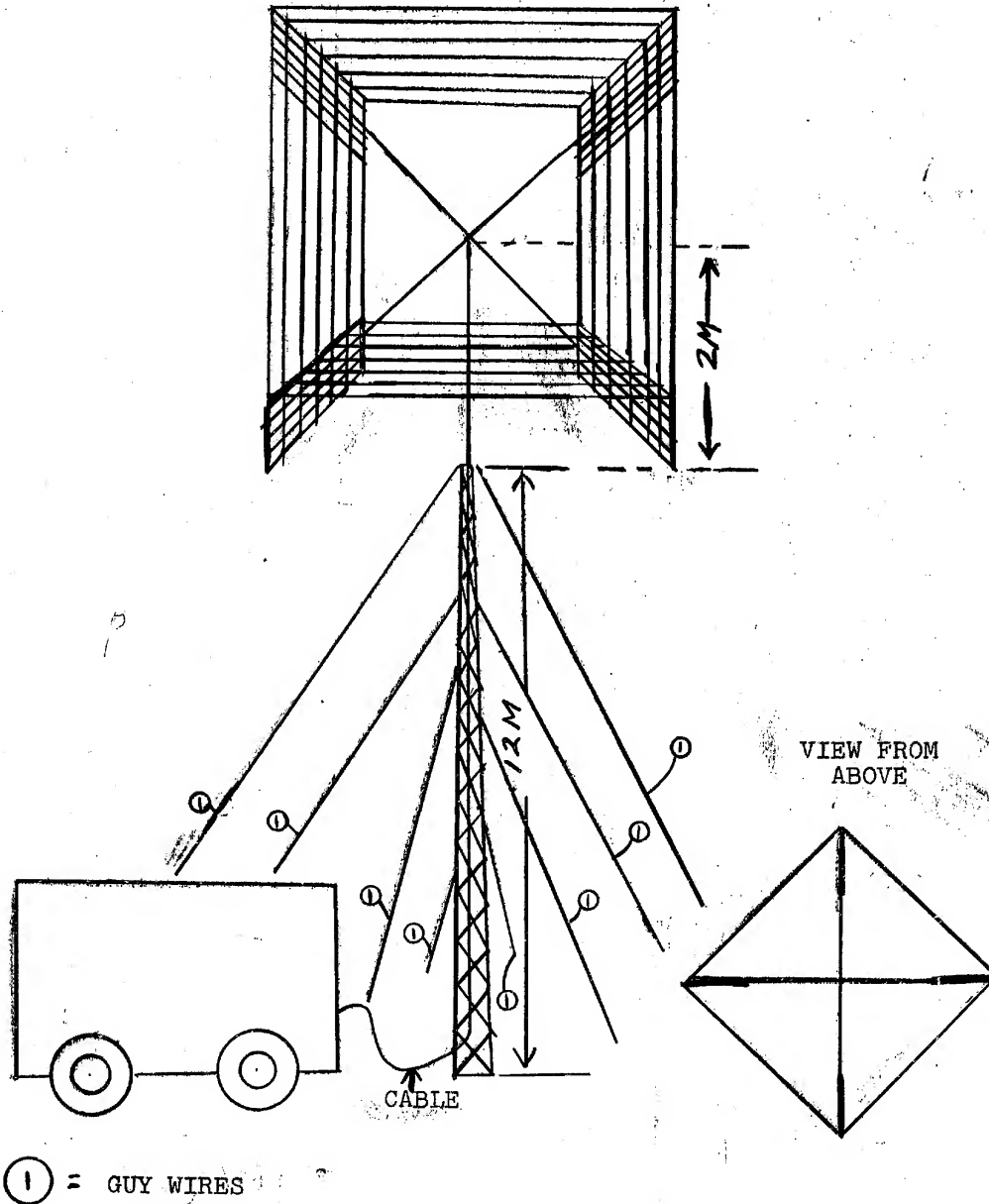
- Point #1 Residential Area. This area contained a few scattered, two-story stuccoed brick homes used by the local people and in no way affiliated with the military or the base.
- #2 Building. This was an L shaped, one-story, white, stuccoed brick building approximately 50 m. long (N-S), 30 m. long (E-W), 12 m. wide, and 3 m. high with a slightly pitched grey slate roof. The building contained a kitchen Point A, an officer and enlisted men's mess hall Point B and an officer and enlisted men's club Point C, also used as a theater. Pistols, carbines, and foodstuffs were stored in the cellar of the building.
- #3 Former Bomb Shelter. This was a reinforced concrete building, earth covered, approximately 12 m. square and 2½ m. high which was being used to store perishable foodstuffs. It had a steel door entrance and was guarded at night by a guard armed with a carbine.
- #4 Stable and Pig Pen. Approximately 25 m. long and 15 m. wide; this area contained a wooden stable in which were kept 3 horses and approximately 50 pigs. Ten pigs were the property of the maintenance unit and the remainder belonged to the Mechanized Artillery Regiments.
- #5 Officer's Billet No. 2. This was a two-story, brown stuccoed brick building 40 m. long, 15 m. wide and 8 m. high with a slightly pitched grey slate roof.
- #6 House. This was a two-story, brown stuccoed brick building 15 m. square and 8 m. high with the same type roof. This house was used by the Base Commander (Maintenance Unit) and a few other officers.
- #7 Officer's Billet No. 1. Same as in Point 5
- #8a Wooden Fence. This was a wooden fence two meters high and topped with barbed wire.
- #8b Wire Fence. This wire fence was two meters high topped with barbed wire.
- #9 Headquarters Building. This was a two story, stuccoed brick building 40 m. long, 15 m. wide, and 8 m. high with the same type roof. The first floor contained the offices, and the second floor was used as a barracks for the enlisted men.
- #10 Road. This was an asphalt surfaced road approximately 10 m. wide, with sidewalks and intermittent street lights.
- #11 Main Entrance. This was the main and only entrance to the base, and it consisted of a solid metal, blue, two section gate approximately 2½ m. high and 10 m. wide. This entrance was guarded at all times by guards (of the mechanized artillery regiments) armed with carbines. Enlisted men were restricted to the area, but officers were able to come and go as they pleased and were not requested to show any passes.
- #12 Building. This was a one-story, wooden structure used as a garage and gun storage by the Mechanized Artillery Regiment. One section of the building Point 12a was a bathhouse constructed of brick and used only by the enlisted personnel of the 653rd Aviation Maintenance Base.

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Annex B



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Memory Sketch of [REDACTED] of a Radar Antenna

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Annex A (con't)

Legend

Point #12a Bathhouse.

- #13 Garage. This was a one-story, stuccoed brick building 15 m. long, 20 m. wide, and 4 m. high with the same type roof and metal doors. The garage was used by the 653rd Aviation Maintenance Base; they kept two ZIS type trucks, one black, light Mercedes sedan, and one Chevrolet sedan.
- #14 Living Quarters. This was a one-story, stuccoed brick building approximately 12 m. square and 5 m. high with the same type roof. This building was used by the main engineer and a few other officers.
- #15 Maintenance Workshop. This was a former hangar, constructed of metal, approximately 70 m. long, 30 m. wide, and 20 m. high with a metal, barrel shaped roof. I am unable to offer any further information, since all the workshop buildings were restricted to all except those who worked there. However, there was not any sort of security system in effect.
- #16 Workshop. This was a one-story, stuccoed brick building approximately 25 m. long, 30 m. wide, and 4 m. high with the same type roof as the houses.
- #17 Workshop. Identical with point #15.
- #18 Sportfield.
- #19 Buildings of the U-2 Squadron [unidentified].
- #20 Stone Wall. This wall was approximately 2½ m. high and 30 cm. thick. I am not certain, but I assume that this wall completely enclosed the area of the base.
- #21 Radar Antenna. [See Enclosure B]

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